





BOROUGH OF KIDDERMINSTER

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR

1954

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1954 - 1955

Chairman	Councillor W. P. Hill
Vice-Chairman	Councillor H. G. Parker
HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR	...	...	...	Alderman Wilfred Davis
Alderman D. Samuel				Councillor R. Oakley
Councillor Mrs. E. B. Beatty				" H. W. Spilsbury
" E. T. C. Brinton				" B. Thompson
" C. E. Jarvis				" G. Wase
" W. H. Micklewright				" R. R. Woodward

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH

Medical Officer of Health:

COLIN STARKIE, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., B.Sc.

Public Analyst:

M. M. LOVE, F.R.I.C.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Food and Drugs Inspector:

G. A. NORTH, M.B.E., M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I., M.Inst.P.C.
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector.)

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector and Food and Drugs Inspector:

J. B. HINTON, Cert.S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector.)

Sanitary Inspector:

J. WHITTINGSLOW, Cert.S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector.)

R. A. ROGERS, Assistant to Sanitary Inspectors.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 1954 and 1953.

	1954	1953
Area of District in Acres	4694	4694
Population at Census 1951	37423	37423
Estimated Population (mid-year) for Birth Rate and Death Rate	38250	37690
No. of Inhabited Houses, estimated	11660	11123
No. of Persons per House	3.35	3.43
Rateable Value	£221583	£204992
Sum Represented by Penny Rate	£850	£834
Number of Marriages	329	349
Number of Live Births	603	562
Number of Still Births	12	13
Birth Rate (Live and Still)(corrected)	16.1	15.14
Birth Rate for England and Wales (Live and Still)	39.2	22.4
Number of Illegitimate Births	32	29
No. of Deaths under one year of Age	19	15
Of these there were Illegitimate	2	2
INFANTILE MORTALITY PER 1,000 BIRTHS	31.5	26.1
Infantile Mortality for England and Wales	25.5	26.8
Maternal Mortality Rate, England and Wales	0.58	0.76
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births)	Nil	Nil
Number of Deaths	472	588
Death Rate (corrected)	12.3	15.49
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.3	11.4
Percentage of total Deaths occurring in Public Institutions	80.7	76.2
No. of Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	5	7
No. of Deaths from Cancer	81	92
No. of Deaths from Influenza	Nil	7
No. of Deaths from Measles	Nil	Nil
No. of Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil	Nil
Rainfall in inches	27.27	22.29

Year	Live Births	Deaths	Births over Deaths increase
1945	715	424	291
1946	749	396	353
1947	800	453	347
1948	730	383	347
1949	702	471	231
1950	597	461	136
1951	645	515	130
1952	661	413	248
1953	562	588	26 decrease
1954	603	472	141

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1954.

Lloyds Bank Chambers
Kidderminster.

To the Chairman and Members of the
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mr. Chairman,

In reviewing the public health of Kidderminster Borough during 1954 it is of interest to note very briefly, some of the outstanding events which influenced the health of the community either directly and immediately, or indirectly and probably in the near future.

Of the events immediately influencing the health of the community I would mention the termination of all rationing with the exception of coal. Since 1940 rationing of goods has been in effect and has included tea, milk, butter, fats, eggs, bacon, cheese, sugar, sweets, bread, flour, meat, animal feeding stuffs, clothing, coal and solid fuels, gas and electricity, petrol, furniture, building materials, newsprint, and houses. Gradually since the end of World War II in 1945 these materials have come "off ration" and when meat became unrationed in July of 1954, only coal remained still under control. The derationing of meat is associated with the decentralisation of slaughtering which is discussed in more detail on page 30.

Another event immediately affecting our health was the onset of "flu" and colds following the dirty fog we had for a few days in November. This reminds us of the effects of atmospheric pollution, which is discussed at length on pages 20, 41, 42 and 43.

The third event immediately affecting our health was the legal prohibition of the sale of any but "designated" milk in the Borough. This means that only tuberculin tested raw milk, or a pasteurised or sterilised other milk may now be sold in the Borough, thus greatly diminishing the chance of milk-spread disease, and particularly tuberculosis of bovine origin.

Of the events affecting us indirectly, or only potentially there is an interesting list, in which I would include

1. Cease fire in Indo China.
2. Public anxiety over the menace of the "H" bomb.
3. Production of sugar from basic chemicals in the laboratory.
4. The increasing public awareness of the effects of smoking.
5. The launching of the first atomic powered vessel - a submarine!
6. The first vertical Jet flight.
7. The army being supplied with atomic weapons.
8. A promise of public action to clean up the atmosphere.

Against this everchanging background of new knowledge, new anxieties, new discoveries and triumphs, the health of Kidderminster Borough must be considered. This I have done in the following pages bringing out where necessary, certain points for your special consideration.

During the year there has been full support and co-operation with the health department from all sections of the community.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued encouragement and support, and also to the staff of the health department, for their unfailing work and ever loyal and willing co-operation, my thanks are gratefully given.

I am, Your obedient servant,

COLIN STARKIE.

Medical Officer of Health.

PROBLEM FAMILIES.

The proportion of real problem families to the whole community is small but in this area, produces twenty to thirty families growing up in very wretched circumstances.

Whatever the causes of families being social problems, the most difficult to remedy are either mental subnormality or a lack of will power in one or both parents, to organise the details of successful family management.

It is often said that such parents should be made to accept their responsibilities, but there are a number of unfortunates who are literally incapable of exercising even the minimum homecraft required to keep a family adequately fed, clothed and housed.

The general history of such a family often began when the parents were children and were brought up in extremely squalid and often amoral surroundings. There is frequently a history of either no legal marriage or one of convenience, and of indulgence in many well known vices.

The school and medical records often show backwardness and poor physique.

These people with such an unfavourable beginning and so ill-equipped mentally to look after a family, often have several children, each one of which causes the household to sink even lower into squalor and financial difficulty.

If they have ever rented a house of their own, they are evicted for non payment of rent and either drift into the cheapest slum dwelling or help to overcrowd the houses of relatives.

Sooner or later the condition of this family comes to the notice of the health authority, because of neglect of the children or on account of gross overcrowding, or when their slum house is considered for demolition.

Many committees discuss means of dealing with this extremely difficult problem.

All sorts of remedies are tried, e.g.

1. Allocation of a corporation house.
2. Rehabilitation of Mother and family.
3. Re-training of Father.
4. Supply of special or ordinary home helps.
5. Court orders for maintenance.

6. Imprisonment of parents and removal of children.
7. Removal of children to care of local authority.
8. Temporary institutional care for Mother and children after eviction.
9. Constant help, financial and otherwise by National Assistance, Health Visitors, School Nurses, Employment Bureau, National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Inspector, Sanitary Inspector, Medical Officer, Child Guidance and Social Psychiatric Worker, and many voluntary bodies.

In spite of every help there remain families incapable of maintaining even the minimum standards required by civilised society. It follows that their children are growing up in the same sort of unstable unhealthy environment which helped to produce this problem family, and so we are likely to have the same troubles in the next generation.

How is the community going to solve this urgent problem?

Where for instance will the evicted family be housed?

All the remediable efforts already mentioned will continue to be used, but there will remain some people who require to live under constant supervision and in special accommodation.

The community has an obligation to see that children are brought up in a reasonably good environment.

How can we ensure this with problem families?

A possible solution is to remove the children of these families into the care of the local authority.

This has the great disadvantage that it splits up the family and incurs great expense.

What are the alternatives?

An ordinary council house could be provided in the full knowledge that it would be abused, damaged and that neighbours would be disturbed and rent left unpaid. This is a step which local authorities are naturally reluctant to take.

But these children are still with us, and if pushed from one wretched house to another they will probably become so unstable, that they in turn will eventually produce more problem families.

A great deal of expense is now incurred in just propping up these families.

A more constructive policy is required, one that will reduce and not increase the problem as the years pass.

Such a solution would be found by building a colony of simple, strong virtually undamageable dwellings where problem families could be accommodated, if necessary, free of rent and where they must be under the direction of a resident Welfare Officer. Such dwellings could comprise part of the present "Part III" accommodation and a communal meals service, heating and hot water could be laid on from a central source.

If this scheme were properly managed, problem family children would be adequately cared for and the necessity of being taken into the care of the local authority would be greatly lessened. This scheme could easily accommodate evicted families whose plight at the present time is often extremely miserable.

Until we decide on some such scheme as outlined above, problem families will continue to be "problems," their existence will be miserable and pitiful, and they will continue costing the community an amount out of all proportion to their numbers.

As far as we can determine there will always be individuals so lacking in natural powers that they will be incapable of living without close supervision. If they are obviously mentally or physically defective, we recognise that they must be looked after by the community. We must also recognise that problem families require such help, not only out of a sense of humanity to the family, but also to safeguard the healthy community against disease and crime undoubtedly fostered in such unfortunate people.

NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM EACH DISEASE AND SEX

Cause of Death		Male	Female
1	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	1
2	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Nil	1
3	Syphilitic Diseases	Nil	Nil
4	Diphtheria	Nil	Nil
5	Whooping Cough	Nil	Nil
6	Meningococcal Infections	Nil	Nil
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	Nil	Nil
8	Measles	Nil	Nil
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1
10	Malignant Neoplasm. Stomach	6	8
11	" " Lung, Bronchus	9	1
12	" " Breast	1	8
13	" " Uterus	Nil	5
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	25	18
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	3	Nil
16	Diabetes	1	4
17	Vascular lesions of Nervous System	38	52
18	Coronary Disease Angina	31	28
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	1
20	Other Heart Diseases	27	42
21	Other Circulatory Diseases	12	6
22	Influenza	Nil	Nil
23	Pneumonia	3	6
24	Bronchitis	27	9
25	Other diseases of Respiratory System	1	Nil
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	6	Nil
27	Gastritis and Diarrhoea	3	Nil
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	4
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	Nil
30	Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion	Nil	Nil
31	Congenital Malformations	3	3
32	Other Defined and ill-defined Diseases	12	33
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	2
34	All other accidents	6	6
35	Suicide	2	2
36	Homicide and Operations of War	2	Nil
TOTAL		231	241

The ages at which deaths have taken place during 1954 are as follows :-

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	19
Between 1 and 2 years	...	...	...	...	1
Between 2 and 5 years	...	...	...	...	3
Between 5 and 15 years	...	...	...	...	4
Between 15 and 25 years	...	...	...	...	2
Between 25 and 45 years	...	...	...	...	21
Between 45 and 65 years	...	...	...	...	92
65 years and upwards	...	...	...	...	330
					472

CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHITIS.

From the certificates it is found that there were 9 men who died from Cancer of the Lung, and only 1 woman. There were 27 men died of Bronchitis and only 9 women.

These indicate that the men's lungs were subject to greater irritation than the women's. So far we can only guess at the cause of this difference in lung irritant between the sexes, but recent research would seem to indicate that it may be associated with the different smoking habits of these men and women.

DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

Since 1952, deaths occurring in institutions for the aged and chronic sick have been registered as occurring in the district where the institutions are built. Thus of the 255 deaths occurring in Blakebrook County Hospital, and 118 in other hospitals or public institutions in the borough, 165 were not normal residents of Kidderminster.

In other words about 35% of the total deaths in the borough occurred in people who were only in the borough because the institutional or hospital accommodation happened to be there.

PUBLIC MORTUARY.

The mortuary situated at the cemetery in the borough had become so unsuitable that something had to be done about it. After much discussion a very sensible agreement was made between the borough and the Mid-Worcestershire Hospital Management Committee, whereby for an annual payment, the borough can use the much better mortuary situated at the Kidderminster General Hospital.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

The Public Health Officers of the Authority are listed on page 5 of this report for convenient reference.

LABORATORY SERVICE:

The standing arrangements with the County Analyst have remained in force. The Public Health Laboratory, Worcester, is available for examination of medical specimens.

The Medical Practitioners of the Borough have also used the Laboratory at the General Hospital. Specimens for examination have been referred through an Honorary Physician in the Out-Patients Dept.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES:

The Ambulance Service controlled by the Worcestershire County Council has its Divisional Headquarters in Castle Road, Kidderminster, whence six vehicles and crews operate in the Kidderminster area.

NURSING IN THE HOME:

The Kidderminster Nursing Association continued to administrate the District Nurses as well as District Midwives in the Borough. There are a Matron, three Midwives, three pupils, and three District Nurses working in the Borough.

The Home and Domestic Help Service has increased so much that 50 Home Helps were employed at the end of the year. These were 9 full time and 41 part time helps.

The cost of this service falls on the Worcestershire County Council. The service is administered and organised by the Womens Voluntary Service which throughout the year has performed an exceptionally useful task in the borough.

Maternity cases, medical emergencies, and the aged and infirm have all been helped by the Home Help Service.

HOSPITALS.

Since 5th July, 1948, the Hospitals and Maternity Home and other Institutions have been administered by the Regional Hospital Board, with the exception of Greenhill Hostel which is still a voluntary Institution for the care of unmarried mothers and under Diocesan administration.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Name	Situation and Time of Session	Provided by
Maternity and Child Welfare Centres	(1) St. Oswald's, Monday 2-4 p.m. (2) Sutton Park, Monday 2-4 p.m. (3) Franche Clinic, Tuesday 2-4 p.m. (4) Families Camp, Tuesday 2-4 p.m. (5) Coventry Street, Thursday 2-4 p.m.	County Council
Tuberculosis	Kidderminster General Hospital, Wed. 10 a.m., Thurs. 2-4 p.m., and 6.30 p.m. Tuesday.	Regional Hospital Board
Venereal Diseases	Kidderminster General Hospital, Mon. 2.0 p.m., Thurs. 5.0 p.m.	Regional Hospital Board
Ante-Natal	Monday Session at Coventry Street Clinic, 2-4 p.m. Friday Session at Stanmore Nurses' Home 2-4 p.m.	County Council
Consultative Ante-Natal Clinic	Kidderminster General Hospital, Weekly, Wednesday 11.0 a.m.	Regional Hospital Board
Family Planning Clinic	Coventry Street Clinic, Wednesday 2-4 p.m.	Family Planning Association

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE:

LIVE BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	308	263	571
Illegitimate	18	14	32
STILL BIRTHS			
Legitimate	7	5	12
Illegitimate	-	-	-

INFANT MORTALITY RATE 31.5 PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS.
MATERNAL MORTALITY, NIL

INFANT WELFARE FOODS:

The distribution of these foods i.e. National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin Tablets, was carried out by the Ministry of Supply until July 1954 when it was handed over to the local authorities. The Kidderminster Borough have been of the greatest assistance in allowing the use of corporation premises for this distribution, thus enabling the Kidderminster mothers to enjoy the same facilities of supply of baby foods, which they had before the change over.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES:

The five Infant Welfare Centres situated at Coventry Street, Broadwaters, Birchen Coppice, Foley Park and Franche, have continued to provide facilities for infant welfare work in all areas of the town.

The attendances at the various clinics were as follows :

Clinic	Total Attendance
Franche	1367
St. Oswalds	1148
Foley Park	1690
Coventry Street	2153
Families Camp	1127
Ante-Natal (137 Sessions)	897
Total Attendances at Clinics	8382
Sewing Class	770

The work of the Health Visitors is summarised in the Table below:

Visits to babies: First	586
Subsequent	2353
Visits to Children	
over 1 year	5613
Special Cases	378
Useless Calls	1396
Diphtheria Immunisations - completed	396

INFANT DEATHS:

In 1954 there were 19 infants died before reaching the age of one year. This gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 31.5 per 1000 live births, and compares unfavourably with the Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales of 26.6 per 1000 live births. (See graph on page 26)

The deaths of the 19 infants were assigned to the following causes:

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Number Died</u>
Prematurity	5
Pneumonia	4
Gross injury after birth	3
Surgical Cases	3
Miscellaneous	4
Total	19

11 died under 8 days old. 8 died over four weeks old.

The question arises as to whether or not any of these deaths could have been prevented, or were they all inevitable.

A closer inspection of each group of deaths may suggest the answer.

Prematurity - Five Babies.

<u>Survived.</u>	<u>Weight.</u>	<u>Certified cause of Death.</u>	
1. 4 hrs.	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Atelectasis and Prematurity.	) Hospital births.
2. 5 hrs.	2 lbs.	Atelectasis and Prematurity.	
3. 12 hrs.	1 lb 5 oz.	Atelectasis and Prematurity.	
4. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Prematurity, Hydramnios, Breech.	Home birth.
5. 2 days.	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Morbus Caerulus and Prematurity.	Home birth.

Was there a possibility of one in this group surviving if even greater ante-natal, delivery and post natal care were taken by the mother and the community?

Pneumonia - Four Babies.

<u>Age at Death.</u>	<u>Certified Cause of Death.</u>	<u>Home Conditions.</u>	<u>Place of Death.</u>
1. 6 months	Broncho-pneumonia, Microcephalic.	Good.	Hospital.
2. 4 months	Broncho-pneumonia.	Very poor.	Home.
3. 4 months	Acute Septicaemia, Enteritis, Bronch-pneumonia.	Poor.	Hospital.
4. 7 months	Congenital heart mal- formation, Broncho- pneumonia.	Good.	Hospital.

It would seem that external and therefore theoretically controllable circumstances contributed largely in causing two of these deaths.

Gross Injury - Three Babies.

Three deaths in newly born babies were attributed to direct violence applied soon after birth, and were therefore not due to congenital or other inevitable causes.

Surgical Cases - Three Babies.

<u>Age at Death.</u>	<u>Certified Cause of Death.</u>	<u>Home Conditions.</u>	<u>Place of Death.</u>
1. 6 weeks	Pyæmia, Congenital Pyloric Stenosis.	Good	Hospital
2. 5 months	Chronic Peritonitis, Paracolic abscess, Haematoma.	Fair	Hospital
3. 4 months	Peritonitis, Megacolon Colectomy.	Fair	Hospital

With complete co-operation and using all modern drugs and techniques, surgical cases are regarded as "risks," but certainly not as inevitable deaths.

Miscellaneous - Four Babies.

1. Baby of $5\frac{1}{4}$ lbs, lived one week, certified - "Very anaemic." This baby died in a babies' hospital.
2. Baby of $7\frac{3}{4}$ lbs, lived three hours, certified - "White asphyxia." Died in maternity home.
3. Baby of $6\frac{1}{2}$ lbs, lived two days, certified - "Congenital heart disease, early broncho-pneumonia."
4. Baby two months old, certified - "Asphyxia due to inhalation of regurgitated stomach contents."

In the cases of the first three deaths perhaps the outcome was inevitable, but the last death seems due to the circumstances of the baby being fed, and then left alone where its cry would not be easily heard by its parents.

In summing up this analysis of 19 infant deaths, although it is impossible to be absolutely certain, yet it seems that 10 of the deaths were inevitable, but that the other nine might possibly have been prevented if the parents and the Welfare Health Services had been able to use all the knowledge and skill which is now available.

Prescribed particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	22	8	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	180	31	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority - (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	202	39	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	4	-	4	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) insufficient	-	3	-	3	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	-	13	-	13	-
(c) not separate for sexes	1	4	-	3	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	24	-	23	-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

For many years the danger to health, and the economic waste of a polluted atmosphere have been known, but until recent times, public indifference or pre-occupation with other matters has held up most attempts to clean the air.

The first essential in trying to prevent atmospheric pollution is to find out how great is the amount of filth we breathe and move about in. To this end two stations for measuring atmospheric pollution were established in the borough, one on the roof of the Central Cinema in Oxford Street to indicate the conditions in the centre of the town, and another at Oldington to cover the outlying area. The full figures are given on page 41, but it is of interest to note that up to a density of 20 tons of solid matter per sq. mile fell from the air during the first month, and that the lowest figure shows nearly 7 tons per sq. mile density of solid matter in the air.

The air filth comes from both industrial and domestic fires, but we cannot estimate accurately how much from each source. In October, 1953, a move was made to reduce smoke emission from the industrial furnaces. There was ready co-operation on the part of the factory management, and the Ministry of Fuel and Power made a special investigation of the problem, giving valuable advice and practical help in many cases.

The inspector in the Health Department entrusted with smoke abatement work adapted a camera to take automatically four photographs per minute of chimneys under observation, thus enabling him to assess the results of any smoke reduction measures, without having to spend hours watching the chimney himself. This camera and its use are described more fully on page 43.

Although a great deal of work has been put into smoke abatement effort, and although factory managements have spent a lot of money on modernising plants, by the end of 1954 it can only be said that conditions have improved. Much work still must be carried out before we cease to see black plumes of smoke chiefly from about half-a-dozen factory chimneys fouling the air.

We hope that by the end of 1955, black smoke from factories will be a rare occurrence. The problem of air pollution from domestic furnaces will still remain, and will not be solved until we cease the incredibly wasteful burning of ordinary coal on house fires.

A detailed report of the Smoke Abatement Campaign will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's section on pages 41, 42 and 43.

WATER.

The sources of water as detailed in the Report for 1933 are still in use and constitute the main supply, with an additional supply from the Birmingham Elan Aqueduct, the minimum agreed supply to be 8,000,000 gallons per annum.

The water supply to the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. Regular bacteriological examination of the raw water is made weekly. Chlorination is permanently carried out, and its efficacy checked by bacteriological examination of tap samples from various points in the town. The results of examination have always shown the water to be fit for use.

As the local well-water supply is hard (average total hardness about 21) and the subsidiary Elan supply is specially treated at its source the question of plumbo-solvency does not arise.

Table of Analysis of samples during 1954.

				Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
(a)	the raw water	Bacteriological	97 samples.	96	1
		Chemical	94 samples.	94	Nil
(b)	water going into supply where treat- ment is installed	Bacteriological	107 samples.	107	Nil
		Chemical	5 samples.	5	Nil
(c)	Supply from wells	Bacteriological	6 samples.	3	3
		Chemical	6 samples.	5	1

HOUSING.

Number of houses built by Private Enterprise	...	112
Number of traditional type houses built by Local Authority	... ..	52
Number of new type houses	... ..	355

The Housing Officer provided the following report :-

Total number of Corporation Houses in the Borough at 31st December, 1954	... ..	2689
Total number of applicants on the housing waiting list at 1st January, 1954	... ..	1287
Total number of applicants on housing waiting list at 31st December, 1954	... ..	1233

The total number of Corporation Houses completed and occupied during 1954 was 407 in the following types :

Traditional:	3 Bedroom	...	...	52
New Type:	2 Bedroom	...	...	61
	3 Bedroom	...	...	205
	Aged Persons Bungalows			16
	Flats (2 Bedrooms)	...		48
	Maisonettes (2 Bedrooms)			1
	Maisonettes (1 Bedroom)			24

The weekly inclusive rents for Corporation dwellings ranged between about 7/- for pre-war Aged Persons Bungalows, to about 32/- for a 5 bedroomed post war house.

The Welfare Officer continues to perform a most valuable service.

The number of new houses has greatly increased, but so far the problem of our slums has not been solved. There are still hundreds of people living in property which has long outlived its usefulness. A start has been made to clear away the old and decayed houses which have so far had to be retained for want of better accommodation being available.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1954.

Of the usual notifiable diseases there was no great incidence.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1954.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	17	2	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	3	Nil
Pneumonia	15	6	9
Poliomyelitis	4	4	Nil
Whooping Cough	40	8	Nil
Measles	151	Nil	Nil
Dysentery	2	Nil	Nil

DIPHTHERIA.

No cases occurred. 396 immunisations were completed.

There are still some parents who are prejudiced, too ignorant or too apathetic to have their children protected against this dangerous disease.

Table showing Incidence and Mortality of Diphtheria.

Year	Total Cases	Deaths	Mortality Rate	Immunised Children	
				Cases	Deaths
1943	9	-	-	-	-
1944	8	-	-	-	-
1945	13	1	-	-	-
1946	11	1	9.0	-	-
1947	2	-	-	-	-
1948	-	-	-	-	-
1949	2	-	-	-	-
1950	-	-	-	-	-
1951	-	-	-	-	-
1952	-	-	-	-	-
1953	-	-	-	-	-
1954	-	-	-	-	-
	45	2	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 24 new cases of tuberculosis notified in 1954, 19 being pulmonary tuberculosis and 5 were non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

During the last thirty years there has been a very gradual decline in the number of pulmonary tuberculosis cases notified each year, and a marked decrease in the number of non-pulmonary cases.

Thirty years ago there was an annual average of about 36 pulmonary cases and 34 non-pulmonary cases. The annual average for the last five years has been 26 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary cases.

Although new cases have been notified at a steady rate of one per fortnight for some years, it will be noticed that since 1950 the number of deaths from tuberculosis has shown a remarkable decrease. This not only shows that modern treatments are preventing tuberculosis from killing so many people, but also that so far we have not been able to reduce the number of people who are being infected with tuberculosis.

It is hoped that the introduction of B.C.G. Vaccination will so raise the individuals' resistance to tuberculosis, that a great reduction in the actual number of cases will occur in a few years time.

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Death-rate (all forms) per 1,000 living
	New Cases	Deaths	New Cases	Deaths	
1949	22	14	6	1	.39
1950	34	16	1	2	.47
1951	29	7	1	2	.24
1952	23	7	1	1	.21
1953	24	6	2	1	.18
1954	19	4	5	1	.13

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION.

Sterilisation of blankets was carried out at the Blakebrook County Hospital.

Disinfestation and disinfection was undertaken by the Health Department, on account of the following :-

Diphtheria	...	...	...	Nil
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	7
Cancer	...	...	...	Nil
Bugs	...	...	...	44
Fleas	...	...	...	39
Ants	...	...	...	3
Wasps	...	...	...	4
Cockroaches	...	...	...	7

HEALTH EDUCATION.

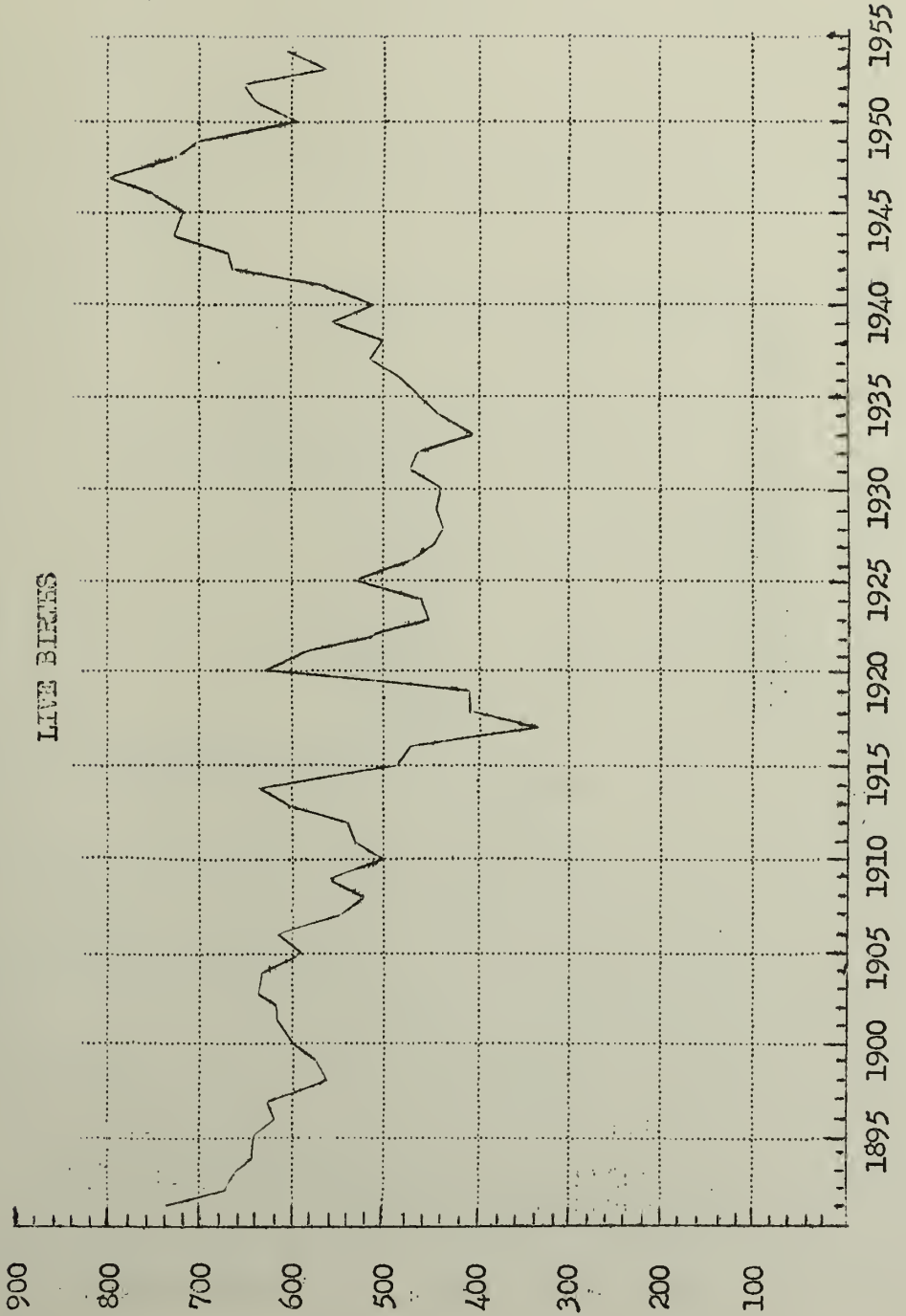
Instruction and special guidance in health matters continues to be of the greatest importance, and has been carried out in very close association with teaching and nursing staffs of the County Council.

Student teachers and senior schoolgirls have visited the school clinics and discussions have been arranged with various groups, including

- General practitioners and district nurses.
- Fathers and Mothers of the Kidderminster "Family Circle."
- Home Helps.
- Pupil nurses from the General Hospital.
- New Meeting Womens League.
- Electrical Association for Women.
- New parents at the Kidderminster High School.

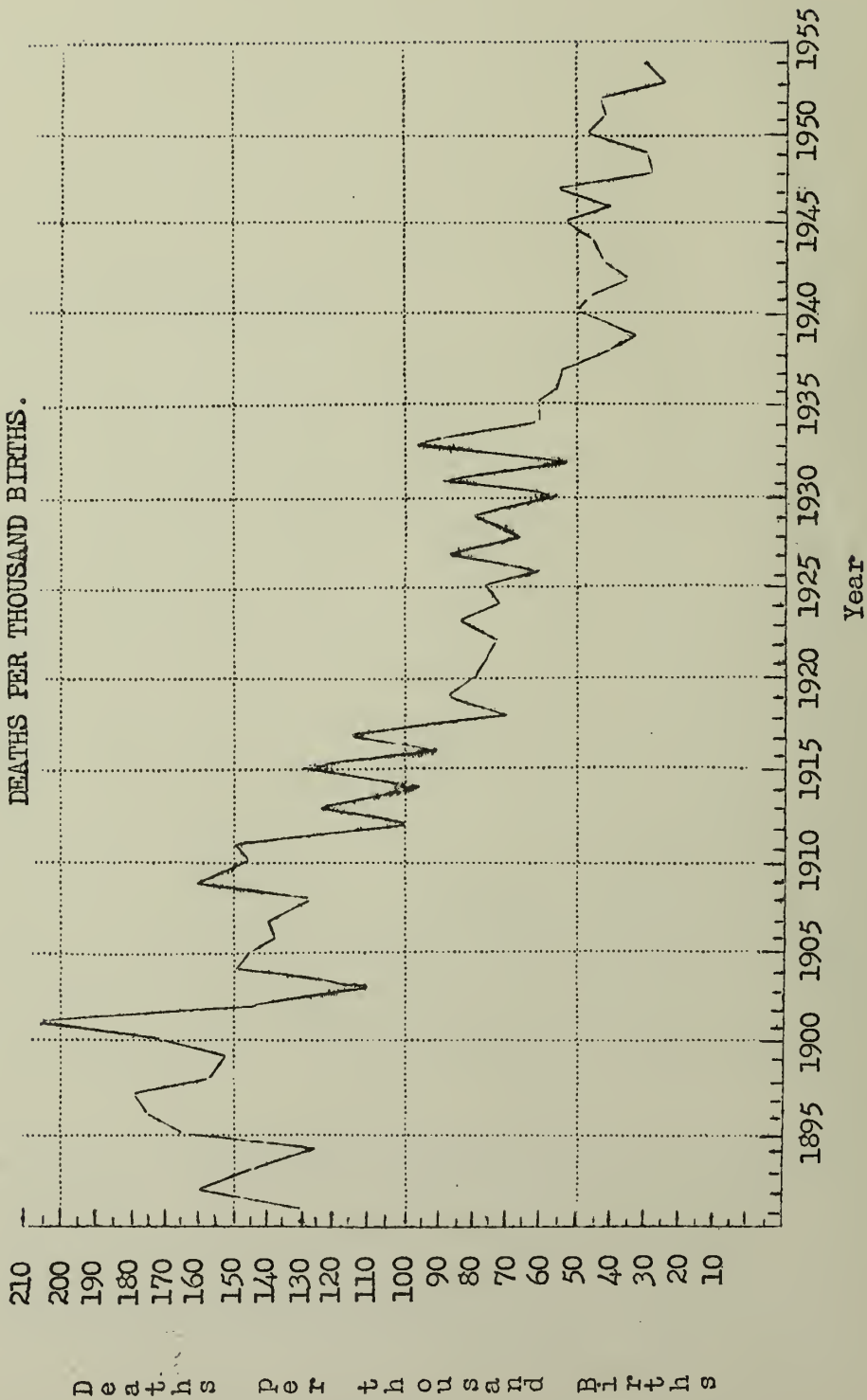
KIDDERMISTER BOROUGH

LIVE BIRDS



K I D D E R M I N S T E R B O R O U G H

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.
DEATHS PER THOUSAND BIRTHS.



Deaths Per thousand Births

REPORT OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1954

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting the Annual Report of the work accomplished by my Department for the year ended 31st December, 1954.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

The duties of Meat Inspection have again been rigorously pursued during the year.

Set out below is a synopsis of the work for the year 1954.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2071	371	582	11780	5549
Number inspected	2071	371	582	11408	5547
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS:					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	9	41	58	85
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	339	117	-	864	217
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	16.4	34.0	7.2	8.08	5.4
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:					
Whole carcasses condemned	6	10	1	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	72	40	-	-	100
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.7	13.4	.17	-	1.8

MEAT AND EDIBLE OFFALS CONDEMNED DURING 1954.

Disease	Tons	Cwts	Lbs
Tuberculosis	7	1	33
Cirrhosis, Distomatosis	1	17	81
Injury, bruising, fracture		19	104
Parturition, Moribund, Badly Bled		18	47
Pyogenic Abscesses		18	40
Swine Fever		15	98
Johnes Disease, Emaciation		14	56
Physiological poorness		12	34
Emaciation, Dropsy		9	66
Pleurisy		9	12
Septic Pericarditis		9	0
Strongylosis		8	34
Septic Peritonitis		7	71
Parasitic Cysts		7	22
Angiomatosis		5	3
Immaturity		4	62
Mastitis, Dropsy		4	29
Abdominal Dropsy, Physiological Poorness		4	2
Swine Erysipelas		3	81
Pyæmia		2	18
Store Stale, Mouldy		1	107
Actinomycosis		1	65
Enteritis, Oedema		1	53
Fatty Infiltration		1	37
Pneumonia		1	36
Necrosis		1	28
Jaundice		1	26
Septic Pneumonia		1	25
Unbled, Green, Tainted		1	13
Melanosis			85
Distomatosis			75
Hydated Cysts			62
Congestion			37
Emphysema			18
Urticaria			16
Arthritis			15
Total Weight Condemned	18	8	23

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

3333 Tins of various foods	14 lbs Sweets
447 lbs Tinned Ham	41 Pkts Cheese
145 lbs Corned Beef	6 lbs Sugar
67 lbs Pork Luncheon Meat	3 lbs Flour
106 lbs Cheese	196 lbs Whole Frozen Egg
90 lbs Jellied Veal	48 Jam Rolls
71 Jars of Food	12 lbs Sausages
42 Small Chocolate Cakes	72 Pkts Jellies
93 lbs Ox Tongues	144 Fish Cakes
320 lbs Chocolate Milk Powder	12 Bottles Cordial
8 lbs Cooked Pressed Beef	7 lbs Prawns
12 lbs Brisket Beef	17 lbs Slab Cake
180 lbs Prunes	20 Pkts Biscuits
26 stone Fish	6 lbs Cooked Beans

SUMMARY.

	Tons.	Cwts.	Lbs.
Grand Total Weight (Meat and Foods) Condemned	19	7	0
Grand Total Weight (Meat) Condemned	18	8	23
Grand Total Weight (Tuberculosis) Condemned	7	1	33

SUMMARY OF MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION (1945-1954)

Number of Animals Slaughtered					Amount of Meat Condemned					
Year	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Weight of Meat and Offal Rejected			Weight Amount Affected with Tuberculosis		
					T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.
1945	3246	8613	489	1037	38	4	0	18	4	1
1946	4510	12231	189	1433	46	7	2	21	9	2
1947	2939	7657	116	1211	43	1	0	19	4	1
1948	2725	7503	125	1462	36	13	3	17	15	1
1949	2817	9534	227	1703	55	8	2	23	19	2
1950	3446	8953	92	1398	61	14	0	27	2	1
1951	4001	9750	607	722	45	18	1	19	8	3
1952	3379	11446	1434	1030	38	3	1	13	10	2
1953	3520	10928	3658	1266	35	17	2	11	16	1
1954	2442	11780	5549	582	18	8	1	7	1	1

SLAUGHTERING.

During the year 1954 a radical change in the slaughtering arrangements for the Borough was effected. The first week in July saw the end of meat rationing and centralised slaughtering at 2 slaughterhouses in the Borough under Ministry of Food control.

When it became officially known that private slaughtering was to be reverted to, applications for the licensing of 8 slaughterhouses (including 2 already used by the Ministry) were received. Your Committee carefully considered and deliberated on the applications and in view of the fact that apart from the 2 in use under Ministry control, the other 6 slaughterhouses had been redundant a long period, the Committee decided to visit these premises.

After the execution of repairs and the carrying out of certain improvements, which included such items as cleaning, painting, repairs to equipment, and lighting, provision where necessary of hand washing facilities, and in two instances, sanitary accommodation, these slaughterhouses were subsequently re-licensed. Thus we now have 8 slaughterhouses in the Borough operating wholly under private ownership. Inspection of these premises and the animals slaughtered therein is regularly carried out.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES, ETC., IN FOOD) REGULATIONS 1925 to 1939.CLEAN FOOD BYE-LAWS.

Total number of Samples (chemical analysis only) taken during the year
1954 95

Milk	...	...	28	Pork Sausages	...	...	21
Pork Pie	...	...	2	Beef Sausages	...	...	5
Self Raising Flour	...	...	1	Processed Peas	...	...	1
Cheese Spread	...	...	1	Ice-Cream	...	...	11
Pineapple Slices	...	...	1	Tinned Cherries	...	...	4
Soft Cheese	...	...	1	Margarine	...	...	8
Butter	...	...	3	Tinned Strawberries	...	...	1
Channel Island Milk	...	...	7				

ACTION TAKEN REGARDING SAMPLES NOT GENUINE.

Sample No.	Sample of	Deficiency	Result, Action, Etc.
367	Pork Sausages.	Meat content slightly inferior.	Repeat sample genuine.
374	Channel Island Milk.	3.7 deficient in fat.	Repeat sample genuine.
401	Butter.	Moisture content slightly above minimum.	Repeat sample genuine.
402	Ice-Cream.	Deficient of Fat.	Repeat sample genuine.
433	Pork Sausage.	Slight deficiency in meat content.	
439	Pork Sausage.	Deficiency in meat content.	

Nos. 367, 433, 439, - Sausages. Manufacturers written and interviewed.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

Sample	No. Taken	Methylene Blue Test		Turbidity Test		No. did not satisfy Phosphatase Test
		No. satisfied Test	No. did not satisfy Test	No. satisfied Test	No. did not satisfy Test	
Designated Milk						
T.T.	3	3	-	-	-	-
Accredited	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
Pasteurised	24	24	-	-	-	-
T.T. Past.	10	10	-	-	-	-
Sterilised	15	-	-	15	-	-
Non-Designated	2	2	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	54	39	-	15	-	-

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS - OTHER FOODS.

Nature of Food	Bacterial Count	Type of Organism
Tinned Cream	-	No pathogens isolated.
Tinned Cream	-	No pathogens isolated.
Tinned Cream	-	No pathogens isolated.
Jellied Veal	48,000,000 organisms per gm.	Coli and faecal coli present.
Veal and Pork	1,560,000 organisms per gm.	Coli and faecal coli absent.
Pork Pie Meat	58,333 organisms per gm.	Coli and faecal coli absent.
Frozen Whole Egg	-	No pathogens isolated.
Tinned Strawberries	-	No bacterial growths found. pH 3.2
Beef Sausage	4,000,000 organisms per gm.	Coli and faecal coli present.
Pork Sausage	2,400,000 organisms per gm.	Coli and faecal coli present.
Sausage skins.	No bacterial count obtained.	Coli organisms absent.
Pork Sausage Meat	130,000 organisms per gm.	Coli and faecal coli present.
Beef Sausage Meat	90,000 organisms per gm.	Coli and faecal coli present.
Pork Sausage	1,600,000 organisms per gm.	Faecal coli present.
Pork Pie Meat	7,142 organisms per gm.	Coli and Faecal coli absent.

In the cases of unsatisfactory samples, written communications were sent to the manufacturers and visits made to the premises.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949 - 1953.

No. of Licenses Issued.

T. T. Milk	(a) Bottling	..... Nil	(b) Distribution	..... 6
Accredited	(a) Bottling	..... Nil	(b) Distribution	..... Nil
Pasteurising Plants	..... 1	Retail Distributors	..... 18	
Sterilising Processing Plant	..... 1	Retail Distributors	..... 76	

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

No. of Distributors registered (excluding shops selling sterilised milk only)	...	...	...	...	26
No. of Dairy Premises registered	...	...	...	...	11

ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947.

The operation of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations has resulted in the taking of routine samples of Ice-Cream manufactured and retailed in the Borough. The tables below give the results, which are most satisfactory.

No. of premises where Ice-Cream is manufactured, stored or sold.

Manufacturers (Heat Treatment)	Nil
Manufacturers (Complete cold-mix only)	3
Premises where wrapped ice-cream only is sold	130
Premises where wrapped ice-cream and bulk is sold	10
(Does not include cafes.)	

1. Ice-Cream - Chemical Analysis.

No. submitted	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
11	10	1

2. Ice-Cream - Bacteriological Examination.

No. submitted	Grades			
	1	2	3	4
14	14	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentages	100%	Nil	Nil	Nil

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN.

The campaign for cleaner food was again pursued during the year, being mainly of a routine nature.

It is gratifying to find that traders as a whole show co-operation and courtesy and welcome advice; even so, (as mentioned in my report for 1953) it is to be regretted that instances still continue to arise where the Department's attention is drawn to the discovery of contraries in various foodstuffs, bread and confectionery, being the **principle offenders.**

The table of "Bacteriological Examinations - Other Foods" on page 32, serves to demonstrate the fact that premises used for the manipulation and manufacture of meat products - pies, brawns, sausages, pressed meat etc., would appear to require most especial care. It cannot be too greatly emphasised that the personnel employed in these establishments should be meticulously clean both in habit and method, all meats suitably handled and stored, and all equipment kept always scrupulously clean.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

We have now only three of these houses left in the Borough which are regularly inspected and disinfested if necessary.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The following list of establishments gives those trades which are scheduled in this area as offensive trades.

Gut Scraper	...	...	...	...	1
Tripe Boilers	...	...	...	...	2

DISINFESTATION OF PREMISES, CLOTHING, ETC.

The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority mainly combating the more common house pests, viz: bed bugs, fleas, cockroaches, etc.

It is usual to spray infested premises, furniture and other fittings with an insecticide containing D.D.T. Where possible such fittings as picture rails, skirting boards, architraves and wallpapers are removed, so as to facilitate the work. Number of houses disinfested by Local Authority ... 93.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:-

(1) (a)	Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	426
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose					680
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose					Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in such a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation			...		86
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under sub-head above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	216

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT THE SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:-
- Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 187
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:-
- (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
- (a) by owners Nil
- (b) by Local Authority in default of owners Nil
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 29
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
- (a) by owners 26
- (b) by Local Authority in default of owners 3
- (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 5
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 5
- (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 5
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED.

Preliminary notices served (for housing defects)	...	156
Intimation letters sent (re sanitary defects)	...	60
Statutory notices served (for housing defects)	...	30
Reminder notices served (for housing defects)	...	2

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS AND OTHER VISITS,
(Excluding Housing.)

Various Complaints	...	...	...	...	159
Food Shops, Cafes, Canteens, Kitchens	...	...	...	...	80
Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	15
Dairies, etc.	...	...	...	...	10
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	16
Ice-Cream (Applicants for Registration)	...	...	...	...	16
Ice-Cream Retailers	...	...	...	...	19
Factories - Sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	10
Factories - Smoke abatement	...	...	...	...	183
Abattoir visits	...	...	...	...	217
Private slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	560
Annual licensing, Cinemas, Theatres	...	...	...	...	18
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	8
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	5
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	5
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	1
Markets	...	...	...	...	40
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	49
Refuse Disposal Site	...	...	...	...	160
Defective drains and drain testing	...	...	...	...	22
Unsound food at warehouses, shops, etc.	...	...	...	...	30
Clean Food Byelaws	...	...	...	...	14
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	40
Insanitary and overflowing cesspool	...	...	...	...	5
Catering licence	...	...	...	...	1
Mortuary	...	...	...	...	1
Cold Stores	...	...	...	...	2
Mobile Canteens	...	...	...	...	3
New sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	5
Movable dwellings	...	...	...	...	2
Fertiliser Stores	...	...	...	...	2
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	...	4
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	19

PUBLIC CLEANSING.(Salvage and Refuse Collection and Disposal.)

£	The cost of collection and disposal of refuse, salvage and kitchen waste for the year 1954 was	...	...	...	£25,306
£	The income was	...	...	...	£6,696
	The net cost being			...	<u>£18,610</u>
£	Financial year ended 31st March, 1955. These figures do not include administration costs.				

COLLECTION OF DOMESTIC AND TRADE REFUSE.

Total number of loads of refuse removed (all vehicles)	7,405
Closet Pans emptied	2,127
Loads of Night Soil removed	52

Disposal of Household Ashes:

Tipped at Broadwaters	...	...	Nil
Tipped at Puxton	...	...	217
Tipped at Hoobrook	...	...	Nil
Tipped at Worcester Road	...	...	5,279
Total	...	...	<u>5,496</u>

LABOUR.

The difficulty of obtaining and maintaining suitable personnel for the Public Cleansing Service and in particular the collection service has been a vexed problem for many authorities, and for a number of years no service has been more adversely affected.

Despite protective clothing, superannuation, sick pay, holidays and Joint Industrial Council Awards, the plain fact is that the service is unattractive, arduous, and generally not comparable with the conditions and pay offered by other industries.

Inducement in the forms of bonus on the number of bins emptied daily, or salvage output have in some cases assisted local authorities greatly, but the position remains far from satisfactory.

Another factor which cannot be overlooked is the problem of inclement weather. With suitable protective clothing it is the normal practice for public cleansing services to function despite weather and road conditions. Probably it is true to say that the Public Cleansing (Household Ashes and Refuse Service) are subject to varying weather conditions more than any other local government department.

RECORD OF SALVAGE FOR THE YEAR 1954.

Month	Weight of Salvage			Income from Sale		
	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	£	s.	d.
January	71	12	2	493	11	8
February	78	3	0	544	0	3
March	90	11	2	640	7	4
April	56	11	0	384	10	8
May	78	7	2	509	10	2
June	79	12	3	543	17	11
July	68	7	2	444	13	3
August	62	18	0	440	5	8
September	82	1	3	504	6	7
October	83	4	2	562	13	11
November	97	6	0	646	6	7
December	81	11	3	563	5	3
TOTAL:	930	7	3	£6277	9	3

The weights of the salvaged materials have been segregated and are set out below.

Materials	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	£	s.	d.
Baled Waste Paper	523	15	3	3649	8	0
Heavy Cast Iron	5	7	1	33	4	8
Baled Destructor Scrap	48	19	1	216	13	0
Cullet (Broken Glass)	45	17	2	110	14	0
Household Bones		4	1	1	4	3
Textiles	7	13	0	128	0	3
Bottles and Jars	6	14	3	56	2	9
Light Scrap Iron	21	7	2	44	2	5
Aluminium		4	3	11	17	6
Kitchen Waste	270	3	3	2026	2	5
TOTAL:	930	7	3	£6277	9	3

Total tonnage - all materials. Years 1940 to 1954 :-

19,907 tons 1 cwt 1 qr.

Value in cash realised :- £106,842 17s 3d.

Chief items of Recovery:

	Tons	Cwts	Qrs	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	7569	2	1	54850	14	11
Kitchen Waste	5143	11	2	26697	4	7
Baled Tins	3007	0	3	5876	16	10

SALVAGE - 1940 to 1954.

Year	Tonnage (All materials)		Value		Waste Paper			Baled Tins			Kitchen Waste					
	T.	C. Q.	£.	s. d.	T.	C. Q.	£.	s. d.	T.	C. Q.	£.	s. d.	T.	C. Q.	£.	s. d.
1940	959	11 0	2943	11 0	369	13 2	1460	10 5	242	18 1	349	9 0	25	1 0	65	6 4
1941	1550	17 3	4735	9 9	484	2 2	2159	2 10	384	0 1	640	7 7	216	9 1	564	2 7
1942	2023	18 2	8551	5 11	751	18 1	4827	5 6	484	11 3	898	6 4	218	19 3	507	9 7
1943	1689	6 1	6803	6 4	479	19 2	3276	5 6	435	9 0	685	15 3	278	8 2	646	5 4
1944	1589	4 2	6535	14 2	568	4 0	3910	5 11	339	5 1	579	2 4	290	8 0	432	7 7
1945	1528	13 2	5892	12 9	418	10 1	2918	12 5	260	8 0	449	12 4	400	7 3	1030	11 5
1946	1456	6 1	7787	13 0	416	0 0	2780	1 9	176	8 1	307	8 9	563	2 0	3100	16 10
1947	1274	3 1	7192	17 10	372	9 3	2423	13 4	122	9 3	230	5 10	575	10 2	3196	3 9
1948	1273	17 1	7143	1 9	467	6 1	3054	16 11	123	14 0	236	10 7	534	4 2	2958	9 2
1949	1191	17 2	7099	7 2	492	6 2	3070	8 9	102	18 0	207	7 5	439	19 3	2845	3 2
1950	1069	13 3	6367	9 7	530	7 3	3144	7 8	58	2 1	126	14 0	353	10 3	2387	0 8
1951	1145	17 1	12457	1 11	544	3 2	8281	5 1	57	8 1	199	15 10	366	4 1	2498	4 8
1952	1181	14 0	10021	9 11	548	12 3	5851	0 3	108	2 0	475	4 1	332	5 0	2358	10 10
1953	1041	12 3	7024	6 11	601	12 0	4043	10 7	62	6 2	274	4 6	268	15 3	2079	10 3
1954	930	7 3	6277	9 3	523	15 3	3649	8 0	48	19 1	216	13 0	270	3 3	2026	2 5
	19907	1 1	106842	17 3	7569	2 1	54850	14 11	3007	0 3	5876	15 10	5143	11 2	26697	4 7

RODENT CONTROL.Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Numerous complaints of minor infestations were notified and received attention during the year, and routine surveys of business premises and residential areas were also carried out.

In addition, the main sewer manholes and water courses passing through the Borough were surveyed and treated twice during the year in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

TREATMENTS.

				No. Treated
Corporation Properties	...	...	...	33
Corporation Sewer Manholes	...	...	...	135
Private Houses	...	...	...	337
Individual business premises		...	...	560
Block control schemes carried out		...	...	46

RAINFALL.

Month	Inches		Rainfall for past ten years	
	1953	1954	Year	Inches
January53	1.22	
February	...	1.83	1.93	1945 ... 20.45
March93	2.20	1946 ... 31.80
April	...	2.71	.48	1947 ... 23.41
May	...	2.35	3.20	1948 ... 27.62
June	...	2.19	2.37	1949 ... 19.46
July	...	2.04	2.65	1950 ... 22.66
August	...	2.39	2.53	1951 ... 32.57
September	...	2.30	1.59	1952 ... 22.58
October	...	2.02	2.78	1953 ... 22.29
November	...	1.85	4.89	1954 ... 27.27
December	...	1.15	1.43	
Total	22.29	27.27	Average	25.01

MORTUARY.

During the year 15 bodies were received into the Public Mortuary, and 28 into the Mortuary at the Kidderminster General Hospital.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Classification of Industrial Boiler Installations other than Central Heating Units in the Borough.

Type of Grate	Number
Hand fired	21
Chain	5
Coking Stokers	4
Flipper and Shovel Type	4
Oil fired	1
Underfeed	3
Total:	38

Number of installations fitted with effective smoke reducing or ancillary equipment	17
Number of visits made to boiler installations	183
Number of hours of observation made	52

Month (1953)	Solid Matter (Tons per Sq. mile) Central Theatre.	S.O ₂ (Tons per Sq. mile) Central Theatre.	S.O ₃ (Mg/100 sq. cm/day) Central Theatre.
January	20.27	2.68	0.51
February	17.46	1.69	0.86
March	17.75	1.24	0.57
April	10.73	1.98	0.43
May	14.43	2.18	1.11
June	15.47	1.98	1.32
July	-	-	0.75
August	9.40	2.01	1.04
September	10.64	1.88	0.41
October	18.41	3.45	2.51
November	14.33	2.75	0.39
December	11.30	2.15	2.12

Month (1954)	Solid Matter (Tons per sq. mile)		S.O ₄ (Tons per sq. mile)		S.O ₃ (Mg/100 sq. cm/day)	
	Central Theatre	Oldington	Central Theatre	Oldington	Central Theatre	Oldington
January	12.31	-	2.92	-	2.87	2.15
February	18.48	-	2.01	-	2.72	2.33
March	12.40	-	2.25	-	2.50	1.19
April	10.04	-	1.54	-	0.70	0.59
May	11.84	-	2.15	-	1.73	1.17
June	8.76	-	3.36	-	1.38	0.84
July	9.53	26.25	2.78	3.18	0.53	0.59
August	6.85	8.52	1.54	0.86	0.72	0.72
September	17.48	12.71	2.07	1.10	0.57	0.84
October	16.52	12.57	2.35	1.92	1.28	0.67
November	-	10.85	-	3.39	3.73	2.36
December	12.75	-	2.21	-	2.58	0.86

ACTION TAKEN TO ABATE SMOKE.

1. By Public Health Department.

In pursuing a general policy of liaison with the manufacturers the department has made a point of keeping in constant touch with their engineers by frequent visits and contact by telephone. A few friendly words to the engineer if his particular plant happens to be emitting a little more smoke than is usual, always, without fail, produces the desired result. This also makes the engineers realise that we have a vigilant eye on the atmospheric pollution problem. It is realised, of course, by the firms that with the price of fuel as it is today, to reduce smoke emission to a minimum is a sound economical practice, for they are now beginning to realise that a reduction in smoke means a saving of fuel.

At the end of the year the position is roughly this: all of the hand fired installations have received practical instruction (where required), four plants have been fitted with the F.R.S. door, two having rejected the doors as inefficient, one of the two plants, having badly maintained stoking equipment, has effected a thorough reconditioning of its existing stokers and is now quite satisfactory, the other one having discarded its existing stokers, installed one chain grate to one boiler and is hand firing on another one. In the latter case a 75% improvement has been effected. The remaining hand fired boiler mentioned will be fitted with a chain grate later on in 1955.

2. The Ministry of Fuel and Power began a tour of boiler installations in the Borough in December 1953, and by February of this year was in a position to make recommendations to the majority of these plants in question. It seemed, for the most part, that the greatest nuisances were from, firstly, inefficiently stoked hand fired boilers, and secondly, as in two very outstanding examples, mechanical stokers of the Flipper or Spreader type in a bad state of disrepair.

3. The problem of conscientious stoking labour has to a certain degree been covered by the inauguration of a Boiler Operator's Course here in Kidderminster at the College of Further Education. The Lecturers attending the classes are supplied by the National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service, and it is hoped that all stokers attending this Course will eventually obtain the City and Guilds Boiler Operator's Certificate.

The employers generally are keen to encourage their stokers to attend these courses and in some instances an attendance bonus is paid with a promise of a substantial monetary reward upon the results of the examination. Although 29 students enrolled to take the Course on 22nd October, a fall in attendance is anticipated, and even if only a third of the original number finishes the Course, it provides Kidderminster with a very satisfactory nucleus of fully trained and competent stoking labour, the results of which will be self evident to employers who will thereby be encouraged to make further arrangements for all their stokers to attend subsequent Courses.

METHODS OF OBSERVATION.

The hourly visual method of observation using the Ringlemann system absorbs a tremendous amount of staff time, and the department in realising this is employing an automatic method by which the smoke is recorded photographically. The apparatus used at the moment is to a large extent an improvisation, consisting of an Ex W.D. 16 m.m. time interval camera controlled by an Ex A.M. type 35 F 24 camera control. The camera is modified considerably for this specific use and when focussed on to the top of a chimney, it will continue unattended for upwards of two hours exposing one frame per 15 seconds of 16 m.m. non-reversible film. A processing system has been devised which can produce the processed film ready for assessment within ten minutes from the end of the observation.

CONCLUSION.

My thanks are due to the whole of the Staff for their loyal and continuous co-operation in dealing with the ever increasing duties and responsibilities devolving on the Department.

Yours obediently,

GEO. A. NORTH.
Chief Sanitary Inspector.



